

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

SAM-01 OMB-01 EB-07 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 /074 W

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9653

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 1127

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 08757

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC, EAID, PO, IT

SUBJECT: AID TO PORTUGAL

REFS: A) STATE 228779 (NOTAL) B) EC BRUSSELS 8669 (NOTAL)

C) ROME 13957 (NOTAL)

1. ITALIAN EC PERMAREP BOMBASSEI AND AMBASSADOR GREENWALD HAD AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS SEPTEMBER 30 ABOUT THE IDEA OF US/EC CONSULTATIONS ON ECONOMIC AID TO PORTUGAL. BOMBASSEI SAID HE HAD FOUND EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI FAVORABLE TO THE NOTION AND HE HAD GIVEN A "GREEN LIGHT" TO ORTOLI FOR US CONSULTATIONS WITH THE COMMISSION.

2. ARRANGEMENTS FOR EXCHANGES WITH THE MEMBER STATES WOULD BE A LITTLE MORE COMPLICATED. ONE POSSIBILITY, BOMBASSEI SAID, MIGHT BE TO USE THE ITALIAN PERM REP IN BRUSSELS. BOMBASSEI THOUGHT THIS CHANNEL MIGHT BE UTILIZED AS A MEANS OF INFORMING ONE ANOTHER OF THE EVOLUTION OF THE EC AND US AID PROGRAMS. BOMBASSEI SPECIFIED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WOULD NEED TO CONSULT HIS FELLOW PERM REPS FUTHER ON THIS PROCEDURE AND WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH US LATER THIS WEEK.

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3. WHATEVER CHANNELS ARE USED BOMBASSEI FELT STRONGLY THAT WE SHOULD MAINTAIN A LOW AND DISCREET PROFILE IN THERE CONSULTATIONS. IT WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL TO OUR FRIENDS IN PORTUGAL IF IT APPEARED THAT ASSISTANCE FROM THE US AND THE EC RESULTED FROM JOINT DECISIONS.

4. TURNING TO THE EC TIMETALBE, BOMBASSEI SAID HE HOPED THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO MEET WITH PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER ANTUNES IN LUXEMBOURG ON OCTOBER 7TH. HE SAID THE PORTUGUESE HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY DID NOT WANT TO COME TO LUXEMBOURGTG ON OCTOBER 7 UNLESS THE EC SIDE WAS PREPARED TO DISCUSS A CONCRETE AID PACKAGE. IF THIS WERE NOT THE CASE THE PORTUGUESE PREFERRED TO POSTPONE THE ANTUNES-EC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING UNTIL NOVEMBER BUT MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT ON OCTOBER 7 OF A FIRM DATE FOR THE NOVEMBER MEETING.

5. BOMBASSEI INDICATED THAT THERE WERE STILL A NUMBER OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES TO BE SETTLED ON THE EC SIDE BEFORE DETAILED PROPOSALS COULD BE PUT TO THE PORTUGUESE. HE PERSONALLY HOPED IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO RESOLVE THESE QUESTIONS BEFORE OCTOBER 7 AND PROCEED WITHH THE MEETING WITH ANTUNES ON THAT DATE, SINCE OTHERWISE THER MIGHT BE A LOSS OF MOMENTUM WHICH COULD ONLY LEAD TO FURTHER POSTPONEMENTS. THE ITALIANS CONSIDER THAT THE BEST HOPE OF GETTING DECISIONS IN THE EC IS BY FACING THE MINISTERS WITH A DEADLINE LIKE THE MEETING WITH ANTUNES. GREENWALD

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